



Virginia Department of Health Professions

[Board of Pharmacy](#)

Virginia Board of Pharmacy

July 12, 2019

Cannabidiol (CBD) Oil/THC-A Oil: Updated Information

As a registered practitioner for CBD/THC-A oil please review this information and, where appropriate, share the information with patients when discussing the use of cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil.

Pharmaceutical Processors

CBD and THC-A oil products containing up to 5% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and regulated by the Board of Pharmacy are not yet available to purchase in Virginia. Please note the CBD products currently sold in retail establishments are likely produced from industrial hemp, may not contain more than 0.3% THC, and are not regulated by the Board of Pharmacy.

In 2018, the Board of Pharmacy awarded conditional approval to five pharmaceutical processors that will be responsible for cultivating, processing and dispensing cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil products containing up to 5% THC for medical use. The products will be tested for potency and contaminants and dispensed by a pharmacist, following recommendation for use from a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. Patients possessing CBD or THC-A oil containing up to 5% THC and otherwise satisfying the legal definitions may assert an affirmative defense when carrying the written certificate and board registration.

Regulations afford the pharmaceutical processors one year from issuance of conditional approval to become operational, and it is anticipated that each processor will complete construction and request board inspection before the end of 2019. Once the inspection is conducted and all requirements have been met by the pharmaceutical processor, a permit will be granted which will allow the processor to begin cultivating, processing, and dispensing cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil products containing up to 5% THC for medical use. It may take 3-6 months for products to be available once growing begins, so cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil products are expected to be available for purchase from the pharmaceutical processors in Virginia in mid-2020.

Please note that the Board is unable to advise patients on safety or other issues regarding cannabidiol oil products that may be available from sources other than pharmaceutical processors regulated by the Board.

Practitioners

As of July 1, 2019, physician assistants and nurse practitioners may register with the Board of Pharmacy to become eligible to issue a written certificate for a patient recommending the use of CBD or THC-A oil pursuant to § 54.1-3408.3.

Please use the written certificate form provided to you upon successful completion of the registration process. The board will not accept any other form. If you cannot locate your link to the form, please send an email to: cbd@dhp.virginia.gov.

As a reminder, 18VAC110-60-30 of the *Regulations Governing Pharmaceutical Processors* does not allow for patient care and evaluation to occur by telemedicine for at least the first year of certification. Additionally, it prohibits a practitioner from issuing certifications for cannabidiol oil or THC-A oil to more than 600 patients at any given time. Tracking the number of written certificates issued is strongly recommended to ensure compliance. A practitioner may petition the Board of Pharmacy and Board of Medicine for an increased number of patients for whom certifications may be issued, upon submission of evidence that the limitation represents potential patient harm.

Questions may be directed to cbd@dhp.virginia.gov or (804) 367-4456.